

2022 1966 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
letter

Greenways
Knockholt
near Sevenoaks
Kent

October 19th., 1966

Dear John *Brown*

Since speaking to you on the phone, I've written to Donald Kenrick and David Smith proposing we meet on Sunday, November 6th. - somewhere in London.

We could have the full gathering of Gypsies and travellers on December 10th (Saturday) which is Human Rights Day. This would give us a propaganda advantage and we could probably get pieces in the Sunday papers about the formation of the association, if it comes off.

I think it should be our ideal, in arranging this gathering, to make our own roles as small as possible so that those we bring together can feel it is their association they are forming. I've written to Vanko Rouda in Paris to ask whether he, or someother member of the international committee, can come over for the foundation meeting and possibly act as chairman, in as far as someone has to help conduct the meeting. Failing this, perhaps Fred Wood could do the job or suggest someone who might. Does Fred know any of the people in the colony at Wimbledon. I believe Will Smith lives there and he knew Dadds.

I've written to Gypsy Williams and Romany Rye - not directly about the proposed meeting but just telling them about our visit to Paris, what we saw of the Romany Evangelical Church and so on - to see if they sound co-operative in their replies. In the past, we've never been able to arrange anything constructive with them and they have been critical. Romany Rye has anyway.

After the November 6th. meeting, I suggest we send out letters to all the travellers we can and ask them either to attend or to send letters of support to the meeting. We can count on the various groups in Ireland to do this and it will help those who do attend to feel that they have wide support. The meeting should link about 1,000 families.

I hope that we can get a monthly newsletter started which will carry news of what the association is doing and what is happening in the various regions. We already have a list of over a hundred addresses to which to send circulars. I don't think we'll get many subscriptions but perhaps we'll be able to get paper and the use of a duplicator once a month at the Centre for Group Studies and postage would be just over £1 monthly, which we can surely raise among members after the first meeting.

Will you send me a list of the names and addresses you have? Also a list of the names of travellers you know, even if they have no address for post. I've been keeping two books of names, one for Ireland and one for Britain and this will be useful for the association. They have the names of more than 650 families in them.

Donald Kenrick suggests we produce a pamphlet briefly giving the history of the Gypsy people and what the association proposes to do and what the movement is doing internationally. He thinks we should tap the Gypsy Lore Society members and subscribers for financial help for this.

Best wishes,